Broadcast of local advertising and non-political news

2807. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been proposed to allow broadcast of local advertising and non-political news in community radio; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) The proposed policy is before a Group of Ministers.

Repeal of Prasar Bharati Act

2808. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA. Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to repeal the Prasar Bharati Act and restore the earlier status of Prasar Bharati and Doordarshan;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when a decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI). (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Compounding losses by Prasar Bharati

2809. SHRI RAASHID ALVI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether following the directions from the Supreme Court, the Centre is close to finalising a solution to public broadcaster Prasar Bharati's compounding losses, now touching Rs. 5500 crore;

(b) if so, whether a Group of Ministers consiting of Home; Finance and External Affairs and other key departments has been set up to work out a plan to cut corporation out of red;

(c) whether formation of this Group was announced in September, 2005; and